

STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARY



The Department of Commerce FY 2001 Accountability Report provides a picture of the Department's performance and discusses programmatic, financial, and management issues during the past year—a year in which our nation was tested and the greatness in America was awakened. The events of September 11, 2001, changed our country forever. The Department joined the rest of the Nation in mourning the victims of the tragedies, while also committing to follow President Bush's desire to carry on the nation's business.

The Department is proud to report many significant accomplishments during FY 2001 that demonstrate great strides toward addressing the priorities I established as Secretary. Trade is the key to increasing prosperity and extending freedom, equality, and security around the world. The Department's International Trade Administration supported efforts to secure the passage of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), which was passed by the House of Representatives. Our efforts will continue until complete passage, as the TPA provides a vehicle to ensure the Congress and the President are working together on trade objectives that benefit American workers, families, farmers, and businesses. The Department also continued its role as an advocate of free and fair trade by leading 30 trade missions throughout the year, providing export counseling to thousands of U.S. businesses, and participating in intragovernmental advocacy efforts.

The Department's Bureau of the Census successfully disseminated 2000 Decennial Census data by delivering the certified state population counts to the President. The data, used to redraw U.S. and state legislative districts, was delivered to governors and state legislatures. During the next two years, detailed data on population and housing characteristics will be released. The Department remained on the leading edge in advancing technology and innovation, the fundamental components of economic growth, resulting in increased employment and improved living standards. Specifically, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) participated in a research project for discovery of a new state of matter, called Bose-Einstein Condensate, that resulted in a Nobel Prize in physics for NIST's Dr. Eric A. Cornell. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office became the first intellectual property office in the world to offer electronic filing for patents and trademarks and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration made advancements in mobile wireless communications. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) played a key role in monitoring and predicting changes in our environment to enhance sustainable economic opportunities. For example, NOAA launched Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-M, the first satellite to carry a Solar X-ray Imager.

The Deputy Secretary, as the Department's Chief Operating Officer, is leading our effort to implement the President's Management Agenda throughout the Department. He is working with senior managers to explore ways of achieving the President's vision of a more citizen-centered, results-oriented, and market-based government. The Department is moving aggressively forward in the areas of strategic human capital management, expanding e-government, competitive sourcing, strengthening financial management, and more effectively integrating budget and performance.

This Accountability Report includes our Consolidated Financial Statements, which received an unqualified opinion for the third straight year. In addition, it contains the Department's most pertinent performance results from our combined FY 2001 Annual Program Performance Report/FY 2003 Annual Performance Plan. The Department is pleased with our performance results in FY 2001. We continue to strengthen our capacity to implement the Government Performance and Results Act's requirements and we are still in the process of implementing the procedures, which will assure that our performance information is not only appropriate, but also complete and reliable.

As the Secretary of Commerce, I look forward to helping the President achieve his goal of an environment in which American businesses and workers can thrive in the global economy. I believe that top priorities for the Department are to ensure a level playing field for American businesses, and to promote American businesses abroad. The Department will also focus on fostering a positive environment for vitality in the technology and telecommunications industries; continue to provide improved economic data to guide sound decisions; and ensure that resources are targeted to address priorities in natural resource management. The Department will remain committed to economic revitalization efforts and expanding business opportunities at home through training, education, and economic development.



Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce